



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 12, 2005
Week Ending: September 11, 2005
CWP WA-CW3705

Winter Wheat and Dry Pea Harvest Completed Dry Conditions Continued

Field Crops

Conditions remained very dry although few sporadic rains were experienced throughout the state. Winter wheat seeding progressed quickly in Adams and Lincoln Counties with early seeded wheat was already emerged in Adams County. Some producers delayed seeding due to moisture concerns. Winter wheat and dry pea harvest completed. Spring wheat and barley harvest came to an end. Potato digging and dry edible bean harvest continued. Hops were being harvested in Benton County. Grain producers expressed concerns about rising fuel and fertilizer prices.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 15% very poor, 28% poor, 35% fair, and 22% good. Pastures continued producing below normal due to drought conditions. Alfalfa hay cutting continued. Some baled hay was rained on. Livestock producers continued feeding haylage to compensate for the lack of available forage in dried up pastures.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apples, soft fruits, and grapes were being harvested. Green bean, squash, onion, and corn harvest were in full swing in Lewis County. Sweet corn harvest wound down.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	31	36	33	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	46	31	1
Subsoil	36	36	28	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	47	39	0
Irrigation Water	13	15	72	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	5	16	73	6

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	99	96	99	99
Winter Wheat Planted	24	15	27	37
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	99	100
Barley Harvested	99	97	100	99
Potatoes Harvested	60	54	46	45
Corn Silage Harvested	24	23	19	21
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	42	33	40	33
Dry Peas Harvested	100	98	98	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	87	85	98	96

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	14	70	15
Dry Edible Beans	2	14	31	53	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Heavy rain showers over the weekend helped to alleviate drought conditions throughout the rural landscape. Sweet corn and silage corn fields were quickly rejuvenated by the additional soil moisture. Greenhouse tomato production was quickly coming to an end due to less than desirable growing conditions. Christmas tree growers reported brisk wholesale sales of Grand Fir. Home gardeners continued harvesting and preserving a bounty of produce.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Dry conditions continued except for a few sporadic showers. Grain harvest was wrapping up as the corn harvest was about to begin.

Lewis: Night temperatures were beginning to drop. Row crops such as beets, green beans, squashes, onions, and corn were in full swing. No rain again for another week, only a few teasing mists here and there.

Mason: A thunderstorm with two inches of rain redeemed pastures this Saturday. There were intermittent showers in the area but recorded almost two inches of rain, it was a downpour that we sorely needed. The reserve of grazing areas is about normal for this time of year. Other activities are getting feeding areas ready for inclement weather, spraying noxious weeds, reseeding bare areas and fence repair.

Pierce/King: Crops were still looking good in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report or any crops damaged do to a weather related event.

Snohomish/King: Heavy rains for a night at the end of week. Up to 3/4 inches in the foothills. Some baled hay still in the fields was rained on. Corn silage harvest was underway and grass silage harvest continued.

Thurston: Ag producers rejoiced over heavy rain showers late in the week which helped to revitalize drought stricken plants. The moisture and cooler temperatures have greatly reduced fire danger. Christmas tree growers continued to shear Douglas and Grand Fir. Growers continued to report strong demand for both Noble and Grand Fir. Turfgrass growers continued irrigating, mowing and harvesting mature fields. Livestock producers continued feeding haylage to compensate for the lack of available forage in dried up pastures. Home gardeners were reporting that there seems to be less of a yellow jacket problem this fall due to the lack of fruit in home orchards.

Thurston (2nd Report): Cattle on the Reed Canary Grass Hay now. Round bales cut late but they're eating it. Using a little molasses to encourage them. Should last until after Halloween, maybe to Thanksgiving.

Whatcom: There were no unusual situations this past week.

Central

Benton: Water for the Roza and other irrigation Districts were calling for water to be shut down by the end of the month. We have not received any rains for winter seeding. As of August 2004 to August 2005 we have only gotten 3.2 inches of rain.

Benton (2nd Report): Hops, apples, soft fruit and grapes were being harvested. Conditions remain very dry.

Ferry/Okanogan: Spring grain harvest was coming to an end. Approximately 50 percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was down. Pasture conditions remained good in most areas. Livestock water was low in many areas. We received some showers on Saturday and Sunday which brought early morning rains throughout most of the county.

Grant: Fourth Cutting of alfalfa was at 25 percent.

Kittitas: There was cooler weather. Grain harvest was complete. Some sweet corn needed to be picked. Some alfalfa needed to be baled.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Much cooler weather has been good for cattle producers and farmers trying to get new timothy seedings to come up. Sweet corn harvest was nearly done, but because of water shortages in the pro-ratable BuRec irrigation district many farmers were unable to establish new

timothy stands in the fall, which tends to be the most effective method. Range pastures were in fair shape where spring precipitation occurred, but in poor condition elsewhere. Hopefully the fall and winter will bring significant effective precipitation.

Klickitat: This summer has been extremely dry, followed by an extremely dry winter. The water situation has become critical for livestock. Normal springs and creeks are now dry. Wells have also gone dry in the area. Some spring rain helped the grain crops in the central part of the county averaging above normal yields, while the crops in the east of the county did not receive the spring rains, and grain crops were a disaster. Native pasture in the south part of the county was nonexistent for the entire year, while native pasture in the north part of the county was reported as being fair to good. Non-irrigated hay production appears to be less than half of average throughout the county.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Brief rain over the weekend in some parts of the county, more significant in other parts of the county. Hopefully a portent of a rainy fall!

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 10 degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with .11 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Seeding was nearing completion in Adams County and the early seeded wheat has already emerged. Moisture conditions remained in mostly short supply and above average winter precipitation was going to be required to reach average yields.

Adams (2nd Report): Winter wheat began emerging from earlier seedings, with reports of mostly even stands to date. Some delayed seeding to wait for weekend weather that never materialized, while others delayed seeding due to subsoil moisture concerns.

Asotin/Garfield: Most producers were waiting for rain prior to planting fall crops. Rain was needed for crops and rangeland. As producers started to bring livestock back to the area from grazing lands that are out of the county, many were worried that there was no grass to come back to.

Garfield: Rain was received on Friday night and Saturday. Received up to 0.3 inches of rain. Need more rain before producers can plant. Cheat grass may be a problem as producers were not worrying about controlling weeds until next spring; they just want to put seed in the ground and insure it.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was moving along fine.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Winter wheat seeding was progressing quickly in Lincoln County with an estimated 50 percent already seeded. Moisture conditions have been adequate for seeding but additional precipitation was going to be needed this fall and winter.

Pend Oreille: For the temperatures the high's were 78 degrees and the low's were 27 degrees and precipitation was .02 inches. Hay was being brought in from the fields with a surplus for the season. The freezing nights have brought a halt to most items not harvested yet. Livestock were putting on heavy coats and eating pasture all day preparing for winter. Most flies and wasps that plagued the livestock have died off due to the freezing temperatures at night. Two nights last week were above freezing.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Harvest finally wrapped up for most everyone in the county. We currently were in need of rain to get things going for the 2006 crop year. A small amount of rain was received in the northern part of Spokane County and all of Pend Oreille County.

Stevens: Rain over the weekend reduced fire danger and softened pasture grasses. Several cattle producers reported diminished livestock water supplies during the past week. Hay producers continued to work on third cuttings. Grain producers expressed concerns about rising fuel and fertilizer prices.

Walla Walla: Remained very dry. Most were waiting to seed fall crops with hopes some precipitation will come.

Whitman: Rain made a welcomed appearance on the Palouse after an absence of many weeks. Rainfall was minimal with totals of 1/4 inch or less but any amount was helpful. Many operations have parked equipment with the hope that soaring diesel and fertilizer prices will come down in a few weeks. Hard, dry ground was also making tillage operations difficult.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 12, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	40	72	57	-3	53	-13	0	-11	0.02	-0.39	1	0.05	-0.56	8	2
Everett	50	74	59	-1	67	-3	6	-8	0.72	0.25	3	0.72	0.01	101	3
Hoquiam	46	71	58	-4	61	-16	0	-18	0.36	-0.28	1	0.36	-0.59	38	1
Kelso	46	81	61	-2	79	-6	15	-10	0.84	0.34	2	0.84	0.07	109	2
Olympia	41	80	59	-1	67	-1	5	-8	0.45	-0.02	2	0.50	-0.21	70	3
Sea-Tac	51	77	61	-2	81	-6	16	-7	0.62	0.21	3	0.62	0.01	102	3
Shelton	39	79	59	-4	62	-22	2	-22	0.96	0.43	2	1.00	0.21	127	3
Tacoma	43	79	59	-3	64	-16	3	-15	0.13	-0.29	1	0.13	-0.52	20	1
Vancouver	48	83	64	3	99	16	29	7	0.03	-0.39	2	0.03	-0.63	5	2
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	40	90	62	0	82	0	16	-11	0.01	-0.13	1	0.01	-0.19	5	1
Stampede Pass	41	70	53	3	36	9	3	-2	0.90	0.19	3	0.90	-0.17	84	3
Wenatchee	48	87	64	-3	100	-16	32	-18	0.07	-0.06	1	0.07	-0.14	33	1
Yakima AP	41	87	60	-4	71	-23	15	-21	0.08	-0.05	1	0.08	-0.13	38	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	87	59	-1	64	-7	13	-10	0.09	-0.19	1	0.09	-0.35	20	1
Deer Park	31	85	54	-8	32	-52	0	-31	0.13	-0.08	1	0.13	-0.20	39	1
Spokane AP	42	83	59	-4	62	-22	13	-18	0.02	-0.19	1	0.02	-0.31	6	1
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	48	86	64	-4	99	-25	30	-26	0.04	-0.03	1	0.04	-0.07	36	1
Moses Lake	44	86	62	-6	85	-39	20	-36	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.11	0	0
Quincy	45	85	63	-2	92	-12	25	-16	0.01	-0.13	1	0.01	-0.20	5	1
Ritzville	38	84	59	-4	66	-25	17	-15	0.15	0.01	2	0.20	0.02	111	3
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	91	66	-5	113	-35	43	-34	0.00	-0.08	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0
Pasco	43	90	63	-5	92	-29	25	-31	0.02	-0.07	1	0.02	-0.15	12	1
Pullman	37	84	57	-4	51	-25	6	-19	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.33	0	0
Whitman Miss.	39	90	62	-3	82	-16	17	-21	0.07	-0.07	2	0.07	-0.15	32	2
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	41	84	60	-4	70	-23	12	-24	0.32	0.04	1	0.32	-0.12	73	1
Lewiston ID	43	91	67	-1	117	-3	53	-3	0.04	-0.17	1	0.04	-0.29	12	1

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>